

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, YO, US

SUBJECT: TWA HIJACKING TRIAL

REF: STATE 310644

1. THE ASSISTANT U.S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INFORMED US ON JANUARY 17 THAT ITS APPEAL AGAINST CHANGE OF VENUE WAS ARGUED JANUARY 14 AND A DECISION IS EXPECTED IN A FEW WEEKS. IF THE APPEAL IS UPHELD, THE TRIAL COULD BEGIN IN NEW YORK WITHIN A MONTH AFTERWARDS, ACCORDING TO EDWARD CORRAN, ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY PATTISON'S CHIEF AIDE. THE COURT ON JANUARY 14 ALSO DENIED ANOTHER DEFENSE MOTION FOR REDUCTION OF BAIL. IF CHANGE OF VENUE IS CONFIRMED, THE U.S. ATTORNEY IS READY TO SECURE AN INDICTMENT IMMEDIATELY IN BUFFALO.

2. CORRAN EXPECTS THE TRIAL WOULD TAKE TWO TO THREE WEEKS IN EITHER CITY. BESIDES THE PROBLEM OF CHOOSING
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A JURY, RENDERED MORE DIFFICULT BY THE EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY ATTENDING THE HIJACKING, CORRAN MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF SEPARATE TRIALS FOR AT LEAST SOME OF THE DEFENDANTS. HE ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBLE BARGAINING FOR A GUILTY PLEA.

3. THE STATE PROCEEDINGS IN THE MURDER CASE ARE STILL DELAYED OVER THE QUESTION OF SELECTING AN INTERPRETER.

THE ORIGINAL CANDIDATE WAS REJECTED BY THE DEFENSE ON
GROUNDS HE WAS A POLICE INFORMER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT
AN ALTERNATE IS OF QUESTIONABLE MERIT AS HE HAS BEEN
ACTIVE IN ANTI-YUGOSLAV EMIGRE CIRCLES. IN ANY EVENT,
CORRAN SAID FLATLY THAT THE FEDERAL TRIAL WILL GO FIRST.

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Message Attributes

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